

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 29, 32-49, and 51-58 are pending in the application, with claims 29, 36, 46, and 54 being the independent claims. The Applicants note that the amendments to the claims have been made to expedite prosecution. The Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejections and reserve the right to pursue original claims, cancelled claims, and new claims in a continuation application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the reference included in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on July 8, 2004 and provide an indication of such consideration. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the PTO/SB/08 as filed on July 8, 2004 is included herewith.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 29, 32-35, 40-42, 44-45, 48, and 52-58.

Claim Rejections

Claims 36-39, 43, 46-47, 49, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,899,835 to Puranda.

Independent claim 36 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 45, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 36 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the cited reference.

Independent claim 46 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 53, which was indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 46 and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the cited reference.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds for rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that such rejections be withdrawn. The Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

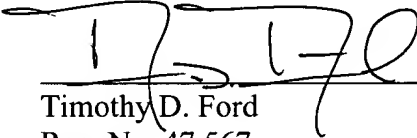
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Dated: March 1, 2005

Cooley Godward LLP
ATTN: Patent Group
One Freedom Square
Reston Town Center
11951 Freedom Drive
Reston, Virginia 20190-5656
Tel: (703) 456-8000
Fax: (703) 456-8100

Respectfully submitted,
COOLEY GODWARD LLP

By:



Timothy D. Ford
Reg. No. 47,567